

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a rotary member capable of carrying an image recording material on its surface;
a rotary brush which rubs and slides on the surface of the rotary member; and
a controller which controls operation of the rotary brush;
wherein, the controller operates in two control modes,
a first mode for active rotation of the rotary brush, and
a second mode for passive rotation of the rotary brush as driven by rotation of the rotary member, and
wherein the amount of push, p , for pressing the rotary brush against the rotary member satisfies the following condition:
 $0.1 \text{ mm} \leq p \leq 2.0 \text{ mm}$, and
wherein nip width, n , in the area of contact between the rotary brush and the rotary member satisfies the following condition
 $2.0 \text{ mm} \leq n \leq 10.0 \text{ mm}$.
2. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller executes the first mode before the cumulative number of rotations of the rotary brush in the second mode exceeds a prescribed number of rotations.
3. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a prescribed voltage is applied to the rotary brush at least in the second mode.

4. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a peripheral velocity of the rotary brush is different from that of the rotary member in the first mode.

5. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rotary member is an photosensitive image carrier.

6. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rotary member is an intermediate transfer medium.

7. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rotary brush is an charging brush for electrically charging a rotary member.

8. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rotary brush is a cleaning brush for cleaning a rotary member.

9. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a rotary member capable of carrying an image recording material on its surface;
a rotary brush which rubs and slides on the surface of the rotary member; and
a controller which controls operation of the rotary brush;
wherein, the controller operates in two control modes,
a first mode for active rotation of the rotary brush, and
a second mode for passive rotation of the rotary brush as driven by rotation of the rotary member, and

wherein nip width, n , in the area of contact between the rotary brush and the rotary member satisfies the following condition,

$$2.0 \text{ mm} \leq n \leq 10.0 \text{ mm}.$$

10. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the controller executes the first mode before the cumulative number of rotations of the rotary brush in the second mode exceeds a prescribed number of rotations.

11. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein a prescribed voltage is applied to the rotary brush at least in the second mode.

12. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein a peripheral velocity of the rotary brush is different from that of the rotary member in the first mode.

13. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the rotary member is an photosensitive image carrier.

14. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the rotary member is an intermediate transfer medium.

15. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the rotary brush is an charging brush for electrically charging a rotary member.

16. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the rotary brush is a cleaning brush for cleaning a rotary member.

17. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a rotary member capable of carrying an image recording material on its surface;
a rotary brush which rubs and slides on the surface of the rotary member;
a counter for counting a number of rotations of the rotary brush, and
a controller which controls operation of the rotary brush;
wherein, the controller operates in two control modes,
a first mode for active rotation of the rotary brush, and
a second mode for passive rotation of the rotary brush as driven by rotation of the rotary member, and
wherein the controller executes the first mode before a cumulative number of rotations of the rotary brush in the second mode, as counted by the counter, exceeds a prescribed number of rotations.

18. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a rotary member capable of carrying an image recording material on its surface; and
a rotary brush which rubs and slides on the surface of the rotary member;
wherein, the amount of push, p , for pressing the rotary brush against the rotary member satisfies the following condition
$$0.1 \text{ mm} \leq p \leq 2.0 \text{ mm}, \text{ and}$$

wherein nip width, n , in the area of contact between the rotary brush and the rotary member satisfies the following condition
$$2.0 \text{ mm} \leq n \leq 10.0 \text{ mm}.$$

19. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:
a controller which controls operation of the rotary brush, wherein the controller operates in two control modes, a first mode for active rotation of the rotary brush and a second mode for passive rotation of the rotary brush as driven by rotation of the rotary member.

20. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, ~~having~~ comprising:
a plurality of components, each of which ~~providing~~ comprise:
a developing device,
a photosensitive image carrier on which an image is formed by the developing device
and
a rotary brush which rubs and slides on the surface of the photosensitive image carrier, ~~comprising~~:
a controller which controls operation of each rotary brush; and
a counter for counting a number of rotations of the rotary brush;
wherein, the controller operates in two control modes, a first mode for active rotation of the rotary brush and a second mode for passive rotation of the rotary brush as driven by rotation of the photosensitive image carrier.

21. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the controller executes the first mode before the cumulative number of rotations of the rotary brushes of the plural components in the second mode exceeds a prescribed number of rotations.

22. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the amount of push p for pressing the rotary brush against the rotary member satisfies the following condition,

$$0.1 \text{ mm} \leq p \leq 2.0 \text{ mm}.$$

23. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein nip width n in the area of contact between the rotary brush and the rotary member satisfies the following condition,

$$2.0 \text{ mm} \leq n \leq 10.0 \text{ mm}.$$

24. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein when only ~~a specific~~ one component among the plural components makes an image and the other components do not make images, the controller controls the apparatus so as to execute the second mode for the rotary brushes of the other components.

25. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the rotary brush is an charging brush for electrically charging an photosensitive image carrier.

26. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the rotary brush is a cleaning brush for cleaning an photosensitive image carrier.